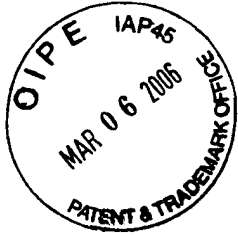


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March 6, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Conf. No. 7809
Art Unit: 1637
Examiner: Y.J. Kim

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/233,218 filed January 20, 1999
Inventors: Claire A. CaJACOB *et al.*
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated
with the Tetrapyrrole Pathway
Atty. Dkt.: 16517.231 (38-21(15090)B/US)

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) are the following documents:

1. Request for Entry of Amendment and Withdrawal of Improper Holding of Abandonment;
2. Copy of Amendment filed January 6, 2006;
3. Copy of Express Abandonment filed January 17, 2006; and
4. Return postcard.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application prior to resolution of the Request for Entry of Amendment and Withdrawal of Improper Holding of Abandonment, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Appellants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing docketing number 16517.231.

Sincerely,

David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)
(by Thomas E. Holsten, Reg. No. 46,098)

Enclosures